

Notes on Griffith's *Animal Kingdom of Cuvier* (1824-1835)

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The value and renown of the compact little 4-volume *Règne Animal* by Cuvier and Latreille (1816) inspired many translators; the most ambitious being "Griffith's Edition" (full title below). This library of 16 fat volumes, prolific in new scientific names, appeared in more than 40 parts over 11 years, and it is remarkable that no record of its dates can be found. The notes below may provide a basic framework from which the final picture can be completed.

The *Catalogues* published in this *Journal* have listed only three bibliographic references to the work, as follows. To them a further three (marked !) are added. There must be many more; it would be interesting to know them.

SHERBORN, 1922: xli. "Quarterly parts, 3 to a vol. Part (1), Feb. 1824; (25) by 1830" [*sic*, cf. next item].

—, 1939: 197. "Reptiles (1) in Sep. 1830." [He should have added=(25), 192 pp.]

MATTHEWS, 1925: 63. "Aves. (14), 1 Dec. 1827; (15), 31 Mar. 1828; (16), 6 Aug. 1828. Volume 7, 21 May 1829. (20), 15 Aug. 1829; (21), 31 Oct. 1829; Volume 8, 23 Jan. 1830."

! FÉRUSAC, 1831 (June): 232-3. "Reptiles (3)=(27), 18 pls."

! — 1835: 73. (posth. [1836], in Guérin). "Mollusques, Radiaires, etc., 1834; (38), (39), (40)." [A trenchant review, having previously (p. 49) noted more kindly the appearance of VOIGT, F. S. (1834), *Das Thierreich* . . . 3, Mollusca.]

! WESTWOOD, 1835: 6, footnote 6. "(28)-(36) were insects, crustaceans, etc."

Surveying the work, it is clear that the parts for a particular Class were issued seriatim until the Class was complete. Then a synopsis and title-page(s) for its volume(s) were issued, all dated for the year of completion. Thus the Mammals first part appeared in 1824, as we have seen, and the last in 1827 (presumably, since Birds opened in that year; moreover, at 3 quarterly parts to a volume, volume 4 would be due before the end of 1826 and the Synopsis in February 1827). So all the Mammals volumes were dated "1827". One slight slip seems to have occurred, for if Matthews is correct the last part of the Birds appeared in January 1830, whereas the Birds title-dates are all "1829".

Production was obviously carefully planned, and writing must have started by 1823 at latest. Cuvier was meticulously translated, probably mainly by Pidgeon, and new papers by various experts in different Classes were added to each volume to make it topical. The ensemble was skilfully edited by Griffith.

All went smoothly until 1829, when the work was almost half finished. Then a series of crises must have occurred. First, Cuvier (1829-30) produced his second edition! The work was out of date! Second, Cuvier started his serial *Histoire naturelle des Poissons*. Third, also in 1829, Guérin [Méneville] started issuing his *Iconographie du Règne animal*, the "Illustrations for the Animal Kingdom"!

Rising to the occasion, the team apparently surmounted the crises neatly. A change-over took place between the second and third volumes of Birds, between May and August 1829. Volume 7 is entirely from Cuvier, 1816 (up to 1:436); and volume 8 is from Cuvier, 1829 (onwards from 1:468).

Reptiles were due next, followed by Fish. But presumably some breathing-space was required while the original translations were scrapped and the new ones prepared. It happened that Cuvier had recently published (1826) the third edition of his *Recherches sur les Ossements fossiles*. Pidgeon, apparently, had been working on this on his own, for he had ready a "Supplementary Volume" on Fossils. An unnumbered volume, it had been printed by William Clowes, who produced volumes 1-5, and was issued in place of the otherwise non-existent eleventh. A comparatively thin volume of only 544 pages, it was presumably issued in two parts; (23), pp. 1-322; (24), pp. [vi]+ 323-544; so bridging the gap between Birds and Reptiles.

It can be sensed that the editor kept his authors writing well ahead of publication, to meet emergencies such as this. For instance, Cuvier (1830:3:368) wrote of "Guérin, François Étienne" [*sic*, everyone else makes him Félix Édouard] "*Iconographie du Règne animal* in 4to [*sic*; there were 4to. presentation copies and cheaper 8vo. ones], il en a déjà paru cinq fascicules." Livraison 5, as will be shown in a later paper, was published in January 1830. By the beginning of 1835, Guérin had published livraison 37. Griffith's corresponding passage (1835, 16:301) becomes "ten numbers have already appeared". As livraison 10 actually appeared in January 1831, this must have been translated some 4 years in advance; deliberately altered but not kept up to date.

So volumes 1-8 were completed; volume [11] filled the crisis-gap, and volume 9 followed as is shown both by its title-date and from the part numbers (25-27) we have for the Reptiles.

Now Westwood's information is helpful. His interest came from having copied so many of Guérin's plates as well as supplying original ones. The Insects and Annelid volumes can be placed in sequence by their title-dates, and we arrive at part (36).

There now remained the Fish and the Molluscs volumes, both dated 1834, commencing at part (37), and the Index volume of 1835. But Férussac made Mollusca parts (38-40). The sequence seems to become irregular. Perhaps Pisces was split. Possible confirmation of this is found in that volume, on pp. 10-12. The Editor, writing in 1831 (!) was waiting in hopes that Cuvier would publish a synopsis in his serial *Histoire naturelle des Poissons* then appearing. Cuvier died [May 1832], as is noted in a footnote to p. 12, but the work continued [to completion in 1849]. Unable to wait longer, perhaps volume 10 was rounded off and issued as parts (41, 42). To extend it, a fascinating discourse on the history of fishing was appended. It was written by C. Hamilton Smith, now a Lieut.-Colonel, having been a Major when the work was started.

This final partitioning of the Fish, forced by Férussac's figures, is pure conjecture and requires confirmation, but it is the only one which fits the dates.

Pagination has not been attempted at this stage. There are several indications that 192 pages were aimed at as the standard for each part. The plates were probably published bound into their respective parts.

So much for partition and sequence, as shown in the accompanying table. The dates have been entered mainly arithmetically, based on the few known ones and the projected quarterly time-table which, from all indications, was tolerably well kept. Considerable

TABLE

GRIFFITH, E., and others. [1824-] "1827-1835". *The animal Kingdom arranged in Conformity with its Organisation, by the Baron Cuvier, with additional Descriptions of all the Species hitherto named and of many not before noticed.* 16 vols. London.

Vol.	Class	Title-date	Part No.	Actual date*	Stated authors	Printer	Publisher
1	Mammals (1)	"1827"	1	29 Feb. 1824	Griffith, E., Smith, C. H. and Pidgeon, E.	A	a
			2	[Jul. 1824]			
			3	[Nov. 1824]			
2	Mammals (2)	"1827"	4	[Mar. 1825]	"	A	a
			5	[Jul. 1825]			
			6	[Nov. 1825]			
3	Mammals (3)	"1827"	7	[Mar. 1826]	"	A	a
			8	[Jun. 1826]			
			9	[Sep. 1826]			
4	Mammals (4)	"1827"	10	[Dec. 1826]	"	A	a
			11	[Mar. 1827]			
			12	[Jun. 1827]			
5	Mammals Syn.	"1827"	13	[Sep. 1827]	{ Cuvier and other naturalists	A	a
6	Birds (1)	"1829"	14	1 Dec. 1827		Griffith, E., and Pidgeon, E. with addits. by Gray, J. E.	B
			15	31 Mar. 1828			
			16	6 Aug. 1828			
7	Birds (2)	"1829"	17	[Nov. 1828]	"	B	b
			18	[Feb. 1829]			
			19	21 May 1829			
8	Birds (3)	"1829"	20	15 Aug. 1829	" †	B	b
			21	31 Oct. 1829			
			22	23 Jan. 1830			
[11]	Fossils	"1830"	23	[Mar. 1830]	Pidgeon, E.	A	a
			24	[Jun. 1830]			
9	Reptiles	"1831"	25	Sep. 1830	Griffith, E., and Pidgeon, E.	C	a
			26	[Dec. 1830]			
			27	Mar. 1831			
14	Insects (1)	"1832"	28	[Jun. 1831]	Griffith, E., and Pidgeon, E. + addits. by Gray, G. [R.]	C	b
			29	[Sep. 1831]			
			30	[Dec. 1831]			
15	Insects (2)	"1832"	31	[Mar. 1832]	"	C	b
			32	[Jun. 1832]			
			33	[Sep. 1832]			
13	Annelids, etc.	"1833"	34	[Dec. 1832]	Griffith, E., and Pidgeon, E.	C	b
			35	[Mar. 1833]			
			36	[Jun. 1833]			
10	Pisces (pt.)	"1834"	37	[Sep. 1833]	(see below)		
12	Mollusca, etc.	"1834"	38	[Dec. 1833]	Griffith, E., and Pidgeon, E.	C	a
			39	[Mar. 1834]			
			40	[Jun. 1834]			
10	Pisces (pt.)	"1834"	41	[Sep. 1834]	Griffith, E.; + Smith, C. H.	D	a
16	Index, Refs.	"1835"	42	[Dec. 1834]	Griffith, E.	C	a
			?	[1835]			

NOTES

* Dates are given open when they are confirmed. Those in square brackets are interpolated. Interpolations are at the planned three-month intervals (which fit remarkably well to the end), except in Mammals where they need to be "stretched". To be on the "safe" side, the earlier Mammal intervals are "stretched" until the lag is made up.

† Volume 8 has an addenda by Swainson, W.

Printers were: A. William Clowes; B. Shackell & Baylis; C. Gilbert & Rivington; D. Henry Baylis.

Publishers were: a. Whittaker & Co.; b. Whittaker, Treacher & Co.

caution, obviously, should be observed at this stage before applying them to any problem in nomenclature.

The authorship of each section of each volume needs to be carefully checked. It seems ridiculous to say this, but it is necessary. Entomologists, for instance, have erred. They have debated among other details whether a certain new species, figured and named in Guérin's *Iconographie* on a plate copied in the *Animal Kingdom* which might have been published earlier, should be attributed to Gray if it had been. But Gray had nothing to do with it. The Insect volumes were "by Griffith & Pidgeon, with descriptions of new species by Gray". The most cursory examination of the text shows that it consists of certain chapters translated from Latreille, with the accompanying plates copied from Guérin, and separate chapters with their own plates under Gray's name. So if the English copy of Guérin's plate had appeared before his own, authorship should be given as "Guérin in Griffith & Pidgeon", or, at least, "Griffith & Pidgeon" (the latter is seldom mentioned). It is hoped, however, in a later paper, to show that the copies never preceded the originals. Griffith, of course, had authority for his work, and received advance copies of both text and plates.

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